

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 13-24 (claims 1-12 were previously cancelled) and added new claims 25-35, of which claim 25 is an independent claim.

New independent claim 25 includes the features where the rotor base body includes a fiber-reinforced area *and* a fiber-free area. The footing of the rotor blade is positioned in the rotor base body in the fiber-free area.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Rice, Cabaret, Elston, nor Rossman, either alone or in combination, disclose a rotor base body with a fiber-reinforced area *and* a fiber-free area where the footing of the rotor blade is positioned in the rotor base body in the fiber-free area.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, neither Rice nor Cabaret employ the use of fibers in the rotor base body. Thus, even if Rice and Cabaret can be broadly interpreted as disclosing a fiber-free area, *because* the references do not disclose the use of fibers in the rotor base body, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Rice and Cabaret cannot then disclose a rotor base body with a fiber-reinforced area.

Applicants also respectfully submit that Rossman also does not disclose a rotor base body with a fiber-reinforced area and a fiber-free area where the footing of the rotor blade is positioned in the rotor base body in the fiber-free area. In the Office Action, in rejecting dependent claims 16 and 21, the Examiner argues that Rossman teaches fiber-reinforced areas “on either side” of a blade footing, thus presumably implying that the blade footing is positioned in a fiber-free area with fiber-reinforced areas “on either side” of the fiber-free area. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Rossman discloses that the entire blade root area 3a is embedded in undirectionalized fibers 4 and in rings 5, 5a, and 5b consisting of directionalized fibers. Col. 2, lines 1-18. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that even if Rossman discloses fiber-reinforced areas of a rotor base body, the blade footing of the rotor blade is not secured in a fiber-free area of the rotor base body. The entire footing is disclosed in the fiber-reinforced areas.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Rossman alone cannot disclose Applicants' claimed invention. Further, even if Rice or Cabaret could be modified by Rossman, all that would result is the complete opposite of Applicants' invention where the footing of the rotor blade is positioned in the rotor base body in the fiber-free area. A modified Rice or Cabaret would result in the fiber-reinforced area of Rossman being added to the non-fiber-reinforced rotor base bodies of Rice and Cabaret (as acknowledged by the Examiner) and the blade footing being embedded in the fiber-reinforced area as taught by Rossman.

The Examiner has only utilized Elston in the Office Action for the feature of previously pending dependent claim 15 regarding a platform. Thus, Elston cannot cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Rice, Cabaret, and Rossman.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 25, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

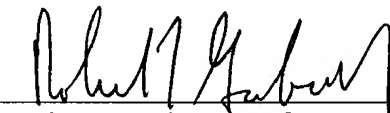
As provided for above, this paper includes a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 011235.57657US).

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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